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Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Letter dated 22 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a letter dated 22 October 1999 from the President of Ukraine, Mr. Leonid Kuchma, on the occasion of United Nations Day (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the text of th present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 10.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yel'chenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Letter dated 22 October 1999 from the President of Ukraine addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to greet you on the occasion of United Nations Day.

This significant date takes us back to 1945, when in a display of wisdom and political will humanity decided to create a house of peace and universal security — the United Nations. We are proud that Ukraine participated actively in laying the foundations for this universal Organization.

Today, on the threshold of the twenty-first century, the countries of the world are facing a number of complex problems, which can be resolved only through united efforts on a global scale.

Unfortunately, the conflicts raging in various parts of our planet are still jeopardizing the peaceful and stable coexistence of its peoples. The issues of terrorism, illegal narcotics trafficking and international crime have never been more pressing. The problems of ensuring lasting development and preserving a good environment for succeeding generations are acquiring a new dimension. All this clearly shows that the activities of the United Nations are vitally important and essential, since it is the only international forum capable of achieving global consensus on ways of solving the burning problems of our development and coordinating efforts to implement the decisions adopted.

In addition, thanks to your persistent efforts to revitalize the United Nations and make it more efficient, the Organization is skilfully adapting to today's realities and remains influential in contemporary international relations.

On this festive day, I am particularly pleased to note the extensive cooperation between Ukraine and the United Nations. Because of the implementation of a number of important projects in our country, the leading role played by the United Nations in mobilizing international efforts to deal with the serious consequences of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear plant and the timely emergency assistance provided to Ukraine, the Organization enjoys considerable support and trust in Ukrainian society.

I believe that our State has a special mission to perform also in connection with its recent election to a non-permanent seat on the Security Council. I should like to emphasize that Ukraine will make every effort to strengthen the role and authority of this important organ, which bears the principal responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

(*Signed*) Leonid **Kuchma**